Electrification of Jaipur-Ahmedabad and Ahmedabad-Gandhidham lines

720. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi to Jaipur rail line is electrified and the Jaipur-Ahmedabad and Ahmedabad-Gandhidham rail lines have not been electrified, if so, the reasons thereof; and

(b) by when these rail lines are likely to be electrified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Delhi-Jaipur rail line is not electrified. There is also at present no proposal to electrify Jaipur-Ahmedabad or Ahmedabad-Gandhidham sections due to constraint of resources and relative priorities for electrification of other high density routes.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Irregularities in allotment of STD booths at Railway Stations

721. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities in allotment of STD booths at railway stations have been reported;

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure that telephone booths at railway stations are allotted to unemployed youths and other eligible categories only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Encroachment of land near rail lines

722. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people are illegally encroaching upon the unoccupied land near rail lines;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the area of railway land illegally encroached upon so far;

(c) whether Government are making any efforts to remove such illegal encroachments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir, some railway lands have been encroached upon.

(b) 2162 hectares of Railway land, including land near railway lines, is under illegal encroachment.

(c) and (d) Railways are engaged in a continuous exercise to remove encroachments from their land as per provisions of Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 and as per provisions of the Railways Act, 1989.

Accidents at unmanned level crossings

723. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3535 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th August, 2000 and state the details of accident prone unmanned level crossings in the country and the action proposed to man such crossings during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Unstarred Question No. 3535 answered in Rajya Sabha on 25.08.2000 has been referred to Accidents at unmanned level crossings are primarily due to negligence of road users. While no unmanned level crossing can be said to be accident prone as such, there are 20 unmanned level crossings where 2 accidents have occurred during last 5 years.

Unmanned level crossings have been categorised into category I to V based on certain criteria that include Train Vehicle Units, Plying of motoriscd vehicles and visibility conditions. For prioritisation of work of manning of such crossings, category I is given highest priority followed by other categories. On Broad Gauge 4449 level crossings falling under categories I to V have been identified for manning. In addition Hon'ble MPs are being approached to sponsor manning of unmanned level crossing from MPLADS funds. For each such proposal railways will man one unmanned level crossing in addition as identified by the Hon'ble MP.